



BY DR. JAMES G. ROCHE
Secretary of the Air Force

On May 7, 2003, the President of the United States announced his intent to nominate me as Secretary of the United States Army. I am deeply honored by his confidence in my ability to lead the Army, and have informed the President that, if nominated and confirmed, I will serve.

In doing so, I ask you to understand that this acceptance reflects a commitment to one of our core values, "Service Before Self." My service is no different than any officer, noncommissioned officer, Airman, or civilian, who is asked to accept an assignment in the interests of our armed forces. I have sworn an oath to support and defend

this great nation, and to obey our Commander-in-Chief—I will remain faithful to these sacred compacts.

While honored, I recognize that this nomination is more a reflection of your dedication, your excellence, your loyal service to the nation, and your great success in accomplishing our mission.

Over the past two years, you have repeatedly delivered for our nation—from the defense of our skies to the global war on terrorism, all while transforming our force to meet the needs of a new era with dangerous new threats to our way of life. We are the best air force in the world; and we will remain so because of over 700,000 dedicated officer, enlisted and civilian

Airmen who understand how to fly, fix, launch, support, defend and employ air and space power.

There are several steps to go in the nomination and confirmation process. Should my nomination advance to the Senate, it will require hearings before the Armed Services Committee and must be voted on by the full Senate. Nothing should be presumed as definitive at this point.

If I do become Army Secretary, Diane and I will leave the Air Force with some of the most indelible and inspirational experiences of our lives. We will miss the camaraderie and esprit of all the Airmen we've met. Diane will cherish the wonderful time she has spent with dear—and from

here on, life-long—friends such as Ellen Jumper. And I will be forever ennobled by having the opportunity to work with and learn from such incredible leaders as (Gen.) John Jumper (Air Force Chief of Staff) and Peter Teets (Undersecretary of the Air Force).

In the meantime, I will continue to work vigorously to overcome the challenges we face, accomplish our mission with excellence, and care for our Air Force family. So, let's keep plugging away on making the future Air Force the service of pride, the service that wonderful warriors like Gen. John Jumper want it to be, and the service to which you have dedicated your lives.

10 receive Article 15 punishment: *Lose \$3740, 250 days, 5 promotions, respect of fellow Airmen*

The following are some of the Articles 15 received by Kirtland AFB Airmen.

★ A **senior airman** was charged with consuming alcoholic beverages while under the age of 21. He received a reduction to the grade of airman first class and 45 days extra duty.

★ A **technical sergeant** was charged with failure to obey a lawful general regulation by wrongfully using a government computer to download and display pornographic material. He received a suspended reduction to the grade of staff sergeant, forfeiture of \$250 pay a month for two months and 30 days extra duty.

★ An **airman** was charged with failure to go to perform bay orderly duties. She received a reduction to the grade of airman basic, restriction to Kirtland AFB for 30 days and 11 days extra duty.

★ A **senior airman** was charged with assault and making provoking gestures toward another airman, and drunk and disorderly behavior. He received a suspended reduction to the grade of airman first class and 14 days extra duty.

★ An **airman** was charged with consuming alcoholic beverages while under the age of 21. He received forfeiture of \$200 pay for two months, restriction to Kirtland AFB for 30 days,

15 days extra duty and a reprimand.

★ An **airman first class** was charged with consuming alcoholic beverages while under the age of 21. He received reduction to the grade of airman basic.

★ An **airman first class** was charged with consuming alcoholic beverages while under the age of 21. He received forfeiture of \$200 pay for two months, restriction to Kirtland AFB for 30 days, 15 days extra duty and a reprimand.

★ An **airman first class** was charged with violating a lawful general regulation by failing to maintain her dormitory room in accordance

with acceptable standards, keeping an unauthorized pet and ammunition in her dormitory room, and wearing a tongue ring while in uniform. She received a suspended reduction to the grade of airman and 30 days extra duty.

★ An **airman first class** was charged with wrongful use of marijuana. He received reduction to the grade of airman and forfeiture of \$645 pay for two months.

★ An **airman** was charged with wrongful use of marijuana. He received reduction to the grade of airman basic and forfeiture of \$575 pay for two months.

They'll be waiting for you when you get home

Military members are often deployed with little time to make arrangements for their animal companions. Making advance preparations through the Animal Humane Association of New Mexico for their care eliminates the chance that a beloved pet will have to be surrendered to a shelter.

Interested military members should visit Animal Humane's Web site www.ahanm.org or call 255-5523, Ext. 134.

AFMC commander listed in Ebony's top 100

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio (AFMCNS)—For the third straight year the Air Force Materiel Command's top leader has been listed as one of Ebony magazine's 100 Plus Most Influential Black Americans.

Gen. Lester Lyles is among the honorees Ebony magazine editors and national opinion leaders selected as individuals who transcend their position and command national influence. According to magazine officials, individuals who positively affect the lives, thinking and actions of a large segment of the African-American population are sought for inclusion in the top 100.

Lyles, a Washington, D.C. native and 1968 graduate of Howard University, took command of AFMC in April of 2000 and has been named to the list each year since.

Entering the Air Force in 1968 as a distinguished graduate of the Air Force ROTC program, Lyles has served in various assignments including the Air Force vice chief of staff and as director of the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization.

Lyles commands a workforce of more than 84,000 people assigned to AFMC's 10 locations across the United States. He also manages a \$44 billion dollar annual budget.

Among his various military and civilian awards, Lyles won the 2002 Black Engineer of the Year Award and in 2003 was presented with the Black Engineer of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award.

The complete "Top 100" listing is available in the May 2003 issue of Ebony Magazine.



Photo by Damian Bohannon

Military's archbishop visits Kirtland AFB

The Most Rev. Edwin F. O'Brien, archbishop for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, confirmed members of the Kirtland AFB Catholic community Monday. The visit was part of his itinerary visiting Southwest bases. Named Archbishop for the Military Services in 1997, O'Brien has served military Catholics as a chaplain in Vietnam and at Fort Bragg, N.C., and as a civilian parish priest and chaplain at the U.S. Military Academy, N.Y. He was co-adjutor archbishop for the Military Services in 1997 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Members confirmed Monday, left to right, are Chrystel Corey, Ryan Lundin, Jolene Santos, Adair Stephen, James Langan, Daniel Hillerman and Sasaan Afshari-Kitt. Next to the archbishop is Father Wieslaw P. Strzadala of the Kirtland AFB chapel.

Temporary duty reimbursement changing

All military travelers should be aware that temporary duty reimbursement policy is changing and split disbursement will soon be mandatory.

This means travelers with a Government Travel Card must check the split disbursement box (block 9 on DD Form 1351-2) and the full amount charged on the travel card must be sent directly to the bank when a travel voucher is filed.

Approving officials should ensure travelers are using split disbursement.

Travelers can determine the amount charged on their travel card by calling 800-472-1424, or seeing their unit monitor.

Call 853-1829.